represented to the Government that the decision to impose duty will adversely affect the economy of newspapers, particularly, the small, medium and regional newspapers and would make the newspapers, particularly small and medium, unviable. They have also requested that the decision to impose customs duty on newsprint should be kept in abeyance till such time a full scale discussion among all concerned is held to work out a satisfactory solution.

(c) and (d) A 10% customs duty was imposed on newsprint with effect from 29.10.96 after taking into account the prevailing international prices and cost of production of indigenous newsprint. It was considered that as of now the indigenous newsprint manufacturers were adversely affected by fall in international prices of newsprint. However, the international price is under constant review and appropriate action, as and when necessary, would be taken.

Raids by Enforcement Deparment on Corporate Houses

1149. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a number of Enforcement department's raids on a number of corporate houses in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A number of premises, connected with the following corporate houses have been searched recently by the Enforcement Directorate:—

1. I.T.C.
2. Shaw Wallace & Co.
3. Geekay Exims (India) Ltd.
4. G.R. Magnets
5. MVR Group of Companies.

Documents relevant for investigations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act have been seized as a result of the searches.

Request by Orissa Government for direct flights connecting Bhubaneshwar with other cities

1150. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested Government for the introduction of new direct flights connecting Bhubaneshwar with other important cities in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction so far;

(c) the new IA flights proposed to be introduced between Bhubaneshwar and other cities in the country;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.;

(b) Indian Airlines has introduced a daily direct service between Bhubaneshwar and Delhi in its winter schedule effective 28.10.96. Besides, Bhubaneshwar is already linked directly with Calcutta, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Madras and Vizag.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines, at present, has no plans to introduce any new direct service from Bhubaneswhar duc to capacity constraint. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Bhubaneshwar.